



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 9, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM:

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Acting Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT:

Weekly Report for April 9, 2002 - April 13, 2001

THE WEEK AHEAD

**NOTE:** Congress is not in session this week. Senate returns April 23. The House returns April 24.

**Changes in the Election Process:** The House Administration Committee (Ney, Chairman) will hold a hearing on improving the election process on April 25.

**Bureau of Prisons:** On April 5, Congressman Frank Wolf, Chair of the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Subcommittee, toured the Bureau of Prisons penitentiary at Lewisburg and low level facility at Allenwood. On April 11, Congressmen Lamar Smith and Bobby Scott, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, respectively, of the House Judiciary Crime Subcommittee will tour the same facility.

**U.S.-Mexico Migration Working Group:** On March 30, OLA, ODAG, INS, and State Department staff provided House and Senate Judiciary staff information and agenda items regarding the U.S. - Mexico Migration Working Group chaired by the Attorney General and Secretary of State. The purpose of this meeting was to receive thoughts and feedback from Hill staff and Members regarding the agenda and goals of the working group. On April 3, 2001, OLA, ODAG, and State Department staff had a conference call with Senator Phil Gramm regarding his legislative proposal for alien guestworkers. Senator Gramm outlined his proposal and shared his perspective on migration issues. Senator Gramm also had a telephone conversation with the Attorney General on the same date. The first Working Group meeting took place on April 4, 2001. Hill staff has requested a summary of that meeting. A Hill briefing is tentatively scheduled for April 11, 2001. (Lani)

**Southwest Border - Illegal Drugs:** The General Accounting Office, OSI, is seeking our assistance in identifying potential witnesses for a hearing planned by the Senate Narcotics Caucus for later this year

regarding the link between drug trafficking and public corruption along the Southwest Border. EOUSA is helping to identify defendants whose cases have been completed. (Tanner)

**Hanssen:** On April 10, DOJ representatives for the Criminal Division and OLA will sit in on a briefing by the State Department for Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff on the operation of State's Office of Foreign Missions, to which Hanssen had been detailed. (Walter)

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Law Enforcement Day on the Hill:** On Wednesday, April 4, OLA accompanied staff from the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section to a day-long seminar sponsored by Congressman Holt. The section provided a 10-15 minute overview of the status of assistance and information sharing on cyber crime problems. (Daley)

**Worst Case Scenario** On Wednesday, April 4, OLA accompanied staff from ODAG and the Terrorism and Violent Crime Section to a briefing with EPA requested by minority staff for Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW). EPW staff are concerned about the recent withdrawal of rulemaking from Federal Register requesting public comment on "qualified researchers". (Daley)

**Decertification Bill:** The mark-up of S. 219 was held on April 3, 2001. The bill will suspend certification of major drug producing nations and replace it with a narrower list of major producers making insufficient efforts to combat drug production and trafficking.

**Money Laundering - Argentina:** On April 3, 2001, OLA forwarded to the Senate Government Affairs Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations a request for Committee documents issued by the Office of International Affairs of the Criminal Division pursuant to a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with the Government of Argentina. The documents were obtained by the Subcommittee pursuant to its subpoena powers in connection with an investigation of international money laundering. The Senate is expected to vote to agree to the request following the Easter recess. (Tanner)

**Hanssen:** On April 3, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division Bruce Swartz and John Dion, Chief of the Internal Security Section, joined representatives from FBI and CIA in briefing staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on matters related to the Hanssen espionage case. On April 4, John Dion and FBI representatives also briefed staff and members of the House Government Reform Committee's Criminal Justice Oversight Subcommittee on the case. (Walter)

**Roadless Rule:** On Wednesday, April 4, you met with Senator Cantwell regarding the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, promulgated by the Forest Service in January, which DOJ is currently defending in court. (Pearlman)

**Nominations:** The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on April 5 on the nominations of Larry Thompson to be Deputy Attorney General, and Ted Olson to be Solicitor General. Both nominees met

with Committee members last week in preparation for their hearings. We anticipate that both will receive written questions. The Committee Chairman left the record open through April 11. The Chairman stated that he intended to hold a mark up on April 26 with their names on the agenda to be considered for a vote by the full Committee.

The nomination of Charles James to be Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division was sent to the Senate on April 6. (Scott-Finan)

**Bankruptcy:** On March 15, the Senate passed the bankruptcy bill, 83-15, with one voting present. The House passed the measure on March 1. Since there are differences between the House and Senate bills, there will need to be a conference. Republican leadership had hopes that the conference would proceed quickly, however, progress has been slowed while the Republican and Democratic leadership work out an agreement regarding representation on conference committees. While negotiations continue on this procedural issue, other methods are being considered to get the bill to the President for signature without a conference. (Wilson)

**SW Border - Prescription Drugs:** On April 6, 2001, representatives of Customs, FDA/HHS, DEA, and OLA met with majority and minority staff to discuss the concerns of the House Commerce Committee regarding possible abuse of the Controlled Substances Trafficking Prohibition Act of 1998, Public Law No. 105-357. This Act allows individuals to bring into the United States from another country up to 50 doses of controlled substances (other than Schedule I) without a prescription. The agencies are working toward improved guidance to Customs agents stationed at the border. We also provided to the Committee certain documents that they requested in connection with their inquiry, and we are continuing to discuss an appropriate accommodation respecting a small group of internal deliberative documents. (Tanner)